

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**  
**Access & Equity Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting**  
**Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina**  
**April 21, 2006**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Committee Members:**

Mr. Keith Britton  
Ms. Precious Cristwell  
Mr. Lafayette Harrison  
Dr. Mary Holloway  
Ms. Sylvia Holmes  
Ms. Caren Kelley-Hall  
Mr. Martin Kinard  
Mr. Jerry Knighton  
Ms. Lottie Otto  
Mr. Robert Pickering  
Ms. Lucille Skaggs  
Ms. Pat Singleton-Young  
Ms. Jewel Whitney  
Mr. Reggie Wilburn  
Dr. Leon Wiles  
Ms. Monica Williams

**Guests:**

Dr. Louis Lynn  
Mr. Frank Matthews  
Ms. Carolyn Watkins

**Staff:**

Mr. Michael Brown  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland

**1. Introductions**

Mr. Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Lorinda Copeland introduced everyone in attendance.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

The motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes as written.

**3. Budget/Legislative Update**

Mr. Brown gave the following budget/legislative update:

- 1) Access & Equity (A&E) wasn't expected to receive additional funding.
- 2) The \$400,000 A & E competitive grant request was not funded.
- 3) An increase for the Need-based Grant was requested along with a proposed change for its allocation methodology.
- 4) Also, a 3% pay increase was proposed for state employees.

**4. Discussion of Reimplementation of Institution A & E Five (5) Year Plan**

Mr. Brown reported that the Budget Report with measurable goals has allowed CHE to prepare more A & E information as requested by external bodies (i.e. Legislators, other states, survey forms, etc.). Mr. Brown stated that the present reporting procedure hasn't increased A&E state funding but felt that it has been a factor in sustaining level funding. This reason is because when the Legislators are developing the state budget, they have detail information/data about the A & E programs at the institutions. He stated that this information/data is a factor in funding not being decreased.

Mr. Brown stated that with all the information/data being requested (specifically long range planning) and the Budget Report is not capturing this, the reimplementation of the A & E 5-year plan would detail a plan for higher education and would also allow the institutions to evaluate their effectiveness. Mr. Brown gave an overview of the proposed 5-year plan and stated the plan was for discussion purposes and institutional input. In the Plan, High school partnerships were omitted because Mr. Brown stated he would like high school partnerships to be established through a competitive grant process. It was suggested that a format is established so the data won't be received in various formats. The 5-year plan is scheduled/target to be implemented this fall.

One advisory member asked how "minority" is defined because she is constantly asked. Mr. Brown responded that "minority" is currently defined as "Black". An advisory member stated the language in the official "gray" and "blue" books state Black and although diversity is changing we can't change the definition. Mr. Brown suggested the committee initiate the discussion with the legislature because the legislature allocates the money but are not reviewing the program closely. Another advisory member stated that A & E evolved from the desegregation plan and CHE developed the guidelines that were approved by the legislature. An advisory member stated that adding additional minority groups would justify the request for additional funds. An advisory member responded if other minority groups are added Blacks will say we haven't finished taking care of them. Mr. Brown responded A & E is not receiving additional money and we may be told our students are taken care of through other scholarships because the money is there and it's up for our students to qualify. Mr. Brown stated this issue could further be discussed during the retreat.

5. **Other Business (Campus wide distribution of the publication – "*Diverse Issues in Higher Education*")**

Mr. Frank Matthews, Publisher/Editor-In-Chief, of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* discussed campus wide distribution of the publication to keep the issues and information in front of key decision makers at the institutions so they may receive the rewards of diversity.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Copeland  
Recording Secretary